

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Serbia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Civil Society and Local Governance
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	169-0210
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$51,749,000 AEEB
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$45,000,000 AEEB
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	2001
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	2006

**Summary:** The USAID Civil Society and Local Governance Program in Serbia consists of the Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) Program to revitalize local democracy through strong citizen participation and the Local Government Initiative (LGI) to strengthen the capacity of local governments to provide services in a transparent, participatory manner.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2003 Program:

Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) Program (\$45,749,000 AEEB). Begun in August 2001, CRDA is now active in over 340 communities where broad-based, representative citizens' committees are actively engaged in making local decisions on community development activities to improve the quality of their lives. These projects may involve civic participation activities, local small-scale civil works rehabilitation or construction (such as schools or clinics), income-generating activities and environmental improvement actions. Socially vulnerable groups, such as refugees, IDPs, and Roma, are specifically targeted as beneficiaries in many of those projects. Up to 75 percent of the cost of projects chosen by the participating communities can be financed by the CRDA Program, but in reality counterpart contributions have actually been running at more than one-third of project costs, reflecting the strong support and involvement of the communities. The implementers are: 1) America's Development Foundation (prime), the University of Delaware's FLAG International (sub) and the International Executive Service Corps (sub); 2) Mercy Corps International (prime), Deloitte, Touche, Tomatsu (sub); 3) International Relief and Development, Inc. (prime), the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) (sub), Camp, Dresser, McKee International (sub); 4) ACDI/VOCA (prime), Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd (sub); and 5) CHF, (prime).

Local Government Initiative (LGI) (\$6,000,000 AEEB). During the four year life of program, LGI will provide 50 municipalities with extensive training and technical assistance in the areas of financial management, municipal services and utility management and information management to help municipal governments become more efficient, responsive and accountable. The program is working to improve local government customer focus and responsiveness, increase citizen and civil society organization, involvement and access to local government, improve legal and financial sustainability, and increase local government influence at the national level. In the first year, 19 municipalities were provided with technical assistance, training and information technologies to improve their management capacities. The program will be expanded to 13 additional local governments in FY 2003.

At the national level, the LGI is providing technical assistance to the Government of the Republic of Serbia in drafting and implementing policy reforms that will decentralize many government responsibilities and decision-making to the local level. The implementers are Development Alternatives, Inc. (prime) and PADCO (sub). They are assisted by a number of partners including: the Open Society Institute, IGE Consulting Limited, the Center for Community Organizing, the Vitosha Research and Center for the Study of Democracy, Rutgers University, and Strategic Marketing and Media Research Institute.

**FY 2004 Program:**

Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) Program (\$43,000,000 AEEB). In FY 2004, it is anticipated that the CRDA Program will again initiate approximately 1,000 new projects in participating communities and that the program will be active in close to 400 communities and 80 municipalities. An increased number of the CRDA activities will be cluster projects involving collaboration between several communities, often of different ethnic composition. The implementers will be the same as in FY 2003.

Local Government Initiative (LGI) (\$2,000,000 AEEB). LGI will expand its capacity-building activities to an additional 17 local governments to reach the program-planned goal of 50 municipalities. Staff from the municipalities who had received training in the early phases of the program will be used as mentors to staff in the local governments added in the later phases of the program. The implementers and partners will be the same as in FY 2003.

**Performance and Results:** By the end of this program, we expect that Serbia will have a highly decentralized government structure relying heavily on participatory, transparent and accountable local governments to provide basic services and infrastructure. Paralleling the revitalized local governments will be a strong, well-organized civil society that will demand transparency and accountability from its local leaders and that will be actively involved in local development projects. While ethnic and religious cleavages may remain, there will be a greater degree of mutual trust and respect among these groups.

CRDA, a five-year citizen participation program, was initiated in Serbia in FY 2001. Within one year of its commencement, it was working in 324 communities in 73 municipalities. Of the 870 projects that were started during the initial twelve month period, over 700 were completed by the end of FY 2002. Approximately an additional 1,000 projects are planned for the second year and many are already being implemented. It is estimated that the direct beneficiaries from the CRDA projects initiated in the first year total approximately 2,000,000 people. The strong involvement and support of the communities for CRDA activities is demonstrated by the fact that over one-third of the funding for project costs has come from non-USAID sources. Beneficiaries indicate that the most important aspects of the CRDA Program have been its willingness to let the community select and implement its own priorities and its ability to bring people together to work cooperatively towards improving their living conditions. Local government leaders have come to embrace the notion of citizen participation and in most municipalities are allocating their own meager resources to help provide the local matching contribution.

In its first year of operation, the Serbia local government program has conducted 129 training sessions for municipal officials in such topics as financial management, public works and utility management, citizen participation and policy reform. This training was provided to more than 3,900 participants. The program has established public-private partnerships in two municipalities to improve central business districts. Citizen information and one-stop centers for obtaining permits and licenses are in the process of being set-up in several cities and will be operational in FY 2003. Equipment and software have been ordered from U.S. suppliers for the first ten municipalities. When installed in FY 2003, the equipment will allow the municipal governments to implement more efficient and transparent information management systems.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Serbia

169-0210 Civil Society and Local Governance	<b>AEEB</b>	<b>ESF</b>
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>		
Obligations	63,560	218
Expenditures	26,699	218
Unliquidated	36,861	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>		
Obligations	52,823	0
Expenditures	48,924	0
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>		
Obligations	116,383	218
Expenditures	75,623	218
Unliquidated	40,760	0
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>		
Obligations	51,749	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>		
Obligations	51,749	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>		
Obligations	45,000	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	213,132	218

FY 2002 Obligations include \$0.17m of FY 2001 Supplemental AEEB.